PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

NOVA SCOTIA GENEALOGICAL SOURCES

COUNTY GUIDE SERIES

NO. 8 — CITY OF HALIFAX

compiled by

Garry Shutlak

RECEIVED
AUG 3 1990
N. S. LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

Credit PANS Maps:
Halifax ca. 1886
E. Hopkins
V₆/239 - 1886

90-06505/

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This booklet is part of the Nova Scotia Genealogical Sources County Guide Series. There are a total of nineteen guides in this series; one for each of the eighteen counties, and one for the City of Halifax. The contents of each guide will assist genealogical researchers by providing quick access via a standard list to specific sources available at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS).

Within each guide, the list is divided into Published Sources (published genealogies; published community/county histories; directories; and newspapers) and Manuscript Sources (papers of families and individuals; church registers; community records and unpublished histories; cemetery inscriptions; census records; education papers; land records; vital statistics; deeds; wills; and some map sources). Please note that some published sources are listed within the Manuscript Sources. All sources are followed by a PANS retrieval number. Visiting researchers should also consult the card indexes on the Second and Third Floors for new entries; and should note that the Biography and Genealogy indexes on the Third Floor will yield sources not covered by this guide series.

Two books recommended for genealogical research are: Julie Morris, Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia (3rd ed.; Halifax: PANS, 1987), a general guide to sources; and Terrence M. Punch, Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia (3rd ed.; Halifax: Petheric, 1983), a handbook outlining research methods and Nova Scotian sources. In addition, the Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia has published various research sources, such as the series of Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers; see the inside back cover of this guide for details.

The PANS does not loan archival or library materials. The National Archives of Canada and the Genealogical Society of Utah (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, LDS), however, have microfilmed various Nova Scotian records, which are available through inter-institutional loan. For further details, contact the National Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0N3, and/or the nearest LDS Branch Library.

© PANS: 1990 ISBN 0-88871-156-5
Series Co-ordinator, Julie Morris
Printed by The Allen Print Ltd., Halifax, N.S.
Cover photograph by Norman Wade Co. Ltd., Halifax
Public Archives of Nova Scotia
6016 University Avenue, Halifax, N.S. B3H 1W4
(902) 424-6060

NOVA SCOTIA GENEALOGICAL SOURCES
NO. 8 - CITY OF HALIFAX

compiled by Garry Shutlak

INTRODUCTION

This booklet contains a map and list of genealogical sources for the City of Halifax available at the Public Archives of Nova Scotia (PANS). Halifax, the capital of Nova Scotia, was founded in 1749 at the expense of the British government under the direction of the Lords of Trade and Plantations. The expedition was under the command of the Honourable Edward Cornwallis as Captain General and Governor of Nova Scotia, and the city was named as a compliment to George Montague Dunk, Earl of Halifax and President of the Lords of Trade and Plantations.

T. B. Akins, "History of Halifax City" (1895) and Thomas H. Raddall, Halifax, warden of the north (1948) are the standard histories for the city.

PUBLISHED SOURCES

GENEALOGIES:

For a list of published genealogies see: Allan E. Marble, A Catalogue of Published Genealogies of Nova Scotian Families (CS88/N935/M312/1984).

COMMUNITY HISTORIES:

Akins, Thomas Beamish "History of Halifax City", Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, Vol. 8, 1895 (F90/N85/Vol. 8).

This publication is printed on acid-free recycled paper.

Armit, W. B. — Halifax, 1749-1906, soldiers who founded and garrisoned a famous city, 1962 (VA/AR6/Oversize).

Bates, George T. — "The great exodus of 1749, or the Cornwallis settlers who didn't", Collections of the Nova Scotia Historicagl Society, Vol. 38, 1973, pp. 27-63 (F90/N85/Vol. 38).

Bell, Winthrop — "A Hessian conscript's account of life at Halifax at the time of the American Revolution", Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, Vol. 27, pp. 125-146 (F90/N85/Vol.27).

Bird, Michael J. — The Town that died, 1962 (F107/H13/Ex7.B).

Blakeley, Phyllis R. — Glimpses of Halifax 1867-1900 (F90/N85/AR2P#9).

Brown, W. H. — "Recollections of old Halifax", Collections of the Nova Scotia Historical Society, Vol. 13, pp. 75-101 (F90/N85/Vol.13).

Eaton, A. W. H. — "Chapters in the history of Halifax, N.S.", Americana, Vols. 10-15, 1915-21 (Micro: E14).

Erickson, Paul A. — Halifax's North End: an anthropologist looks at the city, 1986 (F5249/H13/E68).

History of Spryfield [ca. 1975] (V/F, Vol. 16, #22).

Halifax 09.06. December 6, 1917 - a photo-documentation of the Halifax explosion, 1977 (F5249/H173/W516)

Kitz, Janet — Shattered City: the Halifax explosion and the road to recovery, 1989 (F5249/H173/K62).

Metson, Graham — The Halifax explosion December 6, 1917, [ca. 1978] (F5249/H173e/M954).

Payzant, Joan M. — Halifax: cornerstone of Canada, 1985 (F5249/H173/P347).

Punch, Terrence M. — The Irish in Halifax, 1836-1871; a study on ethnic assimilation, 1976 (Micro: P984).

Raddall, Thomas H. — Halifax, warden of the north, 1948 (F92/R11/H13).

Sutherland, David — "The merchants of Halifax, 1815-1850, a commercial class in pursuit of metropolitan status", 1975. (Micro: S966/M554).

DIRECTORIES:

1858-59 Nugent's Halifax Business Directory (Micro: N967/B98).

1863 Hutchinson's Halifax Business Directory (Micro: N967/H17).

1864-67 Hutchinson's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: H978/N93).

1868-69 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (F91/N85/M11).

1869-1930 McAlpine's Halifax City Directories (Micro: M114/H17).

1871 Lovell's Province of Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: L899).

1888-1969 M.T. & T. Halifax-Dartmouth and County Telephone Directory (misc. editions) (TK/M332).

1890-97 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: M114).

1896 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: M114).

1902 McAlpine's Nova Scotia, Magdalen Islands and St. Pierre Directory (Micro: M114).

1907-08 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: M114).

1914-15 McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory (Micro: M114).

1930-88 Might's Halifax City Directories (F91/H13/M58).

NEWSPAPERS:

Nova Scotia has a long history of newspaper publishing, dating from The Halifax Gazette of 1752. The PANS newspaper holdings are found in the Library on the Second Floor. To help locate the appropriate newspaper, please consult the Kardex and/or Union List of Newspapers. Several compilations of extracted vital statistics are available. To date, these are:

1. "Vital Statistics from The Christian Messenger 1837-1846" (Baptist newspaper), compiled by Jean Holder and Grace Hubley, and "1847-1858", compiled by Ruth and Ross Burgess (Micro: Places: Nova Scotia: Vital Statistics: Reels 1 and 2).

2. "Vital Statistics from The Presbyterian Witness", 1848-1857 and 1858-1864, compiled by L. Shirley McCormick (Micro: Places: Nova Scotia: Vital Statistics: Reels 3 and 4).

3. Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Vital Statistics from Newspapers (CD3649/935). See inside back cover for details.

MANUSCRIPT SOURCES

PAPERS OF FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS:

Researchers should consult the Inventory of Manuscripts (Halifax: PANS, 1976), as well as the Genealogy and Biography card indexes on the Third Floor, to determine if there are entries for the specific families they are researching. The Charles Stayner Papers are an excellent source for Halifax area families (MG 1, Vol. 1619-1650; please consult Finding Aid).

Researchers wanting biographical material on prominent Haligonians, i.e. Sir Samuel Cunard, or certain aspects of Halifax history, i.e. Dalhousie University, should consult the finding aids for the papers of Phyllis R. Blakeley (MG 1, Vol. 3000-3127); C. Bruce Fergusson (MG 1, Vol. 1073-1119); and Daniel C. Harvey (MG 1, Vol. 436-465).

CHURCH REGISTERS:

All church registers are on microfilm (PANS Micro: Churches: community name) unless otherwise specified. If your family resided in an area before a church was constructed, check the records for neighbouring communities. Ministers and priests from Halifax City, Truro, and Chester frequently visited rural hamlets in Halifax County before those villages had resident clergy. Their church registers should be checked, especially for records in the eighteenth and first half of the nineteenth centuries.

A card index arranged alphabetically by community is available in the grey Rolodex files on the Third Floor, and will provide the most up-to-date information on church records held at PANS. Access restrictions pertain to some church records. Abbreviations used: BP - Baptisms; BU - Burials; D - Deaths; and M - Marriages; Ang. - Anglican; Bapt. - Baptist; Cong. - Congregationalist; Luth. - Lutheran; Meth. - Methodist; Presb. - Presbyterian; R.C. - Roman Catholic; Univ. - Universalist Unitarian; Un. - United.

All Saint's Cathedral - Ang. - BP 1910-1964; M 1910-1946; BU 1910-1974.

Brunswick St. Meth/Un. - BP 1787-1979; M 1784-1973; BU 1943-1966.

Canadian Forces Base Halifax - BP 1940-1968; M 1940-1973; BU 1943-1966.

Chalmers Church - Presb. - BP 1893-1916; M 1894-1908; BU 1893-1908 (MG 4, Vol. 249-251).

Church of Redeemer - Univ. - See Universalist Unitarian.

Coburg Rd./Robie St. Meth. - BP 1885-1924; M 1885-1924; BU 1900-1924 (Micro: Churches: Halifax: St. Andrew's Un.).

Dutch Church Ang. - BP 1783-1806; M 1789-1806; BU 1784-1801 (Micro: Churches: Halifax: St. George's Ang. or Micro: MG 4, Vol. 309).

Emmanuel Ang. - BP 1893-1919; M 1893-1919; BU 1893-1979 (Micro: Churches: Halifax: Emmanuel Ang.).

Fort Massey Meth./Un. - BP 1875-1970; M 1875-1953; BU 1875-1970.

Grafton St. Meth. - BP 1867-1924; M 1856-1925; BU 1867-1924 (Micro: Churches: Halifax: St. Andrew's Un.).

Grove Presb. - BP 1890-1919; M 1892-1917; D 1890-1917; for some later records see: Kaye St. Meth. (Micro: Churches: Halifax: United Memorial Un.).

J. Wesley Smith Meth./Un. - BP 1882-1955; M 1891-1955; BU 1903-1980.

Kaye St. Meth. - B 1916-1943; M 1920-1943; D 1921-1940 (scattered) (Micro: Churches: Halifax: United Memorial).

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection - BP 1914-1977; M 1915-1977; BU 1915-1977.

Park St. Presb. - BP 1891-1918; M 1891-1918; BU 1891-1918 (Micro: Churches: Halifax: St. John's Un.).

Robie St./Coburg Rd. Meth. - BP 1885-1924; M 1885-1924; BU 1900-1924 (Micro: Churches: Halifax: St. Andrew's Un.).

Rockingham Un. - BP 1933-1939; M 1933-1938; BU 1933-1935.

St. Agnes' R.C. - BP 1892-1919; M 1892-1909.

St. Andrew's Presb./Un. - BP 1818-1979; M 1818-1973; BU 1818-1975.

St. David's Presb. - BP 1925-1982; M 1925-1974; BU 1925-1971.

St. George's Ang. - BP 1783-1950; M 1784-1954; BU 1784-1956 (MG 4, Vols. 309-311).

St. James' Ang. (Armdale) - BP 1919-1984; M 1919-1970; BU 1920-1984.

St. John's Presb./Un. - BP 1843-1953; M 1843-1972; BU 1891-1969.

St. Joseph's R.C. - BP 1869-1909; M 1868-1909.

St. Luke's Ang. - BP 1858-1910; M 1858-1910; BU 1869-1910.

St. Mark's Ang. - BP 1864-1965; M 1861-1965; BU 1890-1965.

St. Mary's Basilica - R.C. - BP 1830-1969; M 1830-1969; BU 1830-1842.

St. Matthew's Cong./Presb./Un. - BP 1769-1936; M 1787-1936; BU 1858-1936 (Micro: MG 4, Vol. 46-50).

St. Matthias' Ang. - BP 1888-1973; M 1889-1973; BU 1888-1973.

St. Patrick's R.C. - BP 1848-1959; M 1887-1959; BU 1940-1958.

St. Paul's Ang. - BP 1749-1950; M 1749-1954; BU 1749-1954.

St. Peter's R.C. - BP 1800-1830; M 1800-1829; BU 1800-1830.

St. Stephen's Ang. - BP 1876-1910; M 1876-1910; BU 1876-1910 (Micro: Churches: Halifax: St. Luke's Ang.).

Salem Chapel - Cong. - BP 1868-1876 (MG 4, Vol. 72).

Tabernacle - Bapt. - BP 1890-1899; M (scattered) (Micro: Biography: Hall Family: Record Book of Rev. W. E. Hall).

Trinity Ang. - BP 1876-1983; M 1916-1983; BU 1903-1983.

United Memorial - BP, M, BU 1943-1982. See also: Grove Presb. and Kaye St. Meth.

Universalist Unitarian - BP 1852-1903; M 1855-1882; BU 1852-1904 (MG 4, Vol. 190-215).

COMMUNITY RECORDS:

See entries under **Community Histories** and **Church Registers.**

CEMETERIES:

The cemeteries collection includes transcripts of inscriptions from tombstones or grave markers, and cemetery company records. A card index arranged alphabetically by community is available in the beige Rolodex files on the Third Floor, and will provide the most up-to-date information on cemetery records held at PANS.

CENSUS RECORDS:

Poll tax lists, which name the head of household, are available for Nova Scotia, 1767-1796. They are arranged alphabetically by community name, and have been grouped with the early census returns.

The 1838 census for Halifax County is in geographical order by name of the community.

The census records for 1851 to 1891 are arranged by assigned districts, which are listed on the outside of the microfilm box. Valuable genealogical information, such as individual's name, sex, age, religion, occupation, ethnic origin, country or province of birth, and marital status, is given in the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census records.

REFERENCES: 1767-1796, Reels 3, 5;
1792-93, MG 100, Vol. 148, #38;
1838, Reels 4, 6, 8;
1851, Reels 10, 10A, and Index (HA747/N935/1851);
1861, Reel 14;
1871, Reels 48, 49;
1881, Reel 71;
1891, Reels 86, 87.
See also: Microfilm Finding Aid - Miscellaneous - Census.
(Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

EDUCATION PAPERS:

The education papers, 1812-1887, include warrants for payments to trustees, general correspondence, statistical

returns and reports, petitions, grants, abstracts some minutes of the school boards, contracts, and attendance records. In the papers for the 1820s and 1830s, names and ages of pupils, names of parents or guardians, and lists of schools may be found.

REFERENCES: RG 14, Vols 24-29. See: Inventory of Manuscripts, p. 134, and RG 14 Finding Aid for detailed listings.

LAND PAPERS:

The PANS has microfilm copies of land papers and grants. The land papers include petitions for grants, survey warrants, survey descriptions, and grants, 1765-1914; coverage after ca. 1840 is sporadic. A surname card index is available; it is divided into two sections, 1765-1799 and 1800-1914. These papers are of immense value to genealogists, since a petitioner may mention his county and country of birth, military service, and the number of children in the family (Micro: RG 20, Series "A", 94 reels). The PANS also has land grants from the Crown Lands Office, covering the years 1738-1962 (Micro: Places: Nova Scotia: Land Grants, 147 reels; index, A-G, Reel 1; H-Z, Reel 2). Another collection of petitions for land covers the period 1815-1890 (Micro: RG 20, Series "E", 17 reels; introduction and index on Reel 1). Ungranted petitions are also available (RG 20, Series "U", 5 reels; introduction and index on Reel 1). The Crown Lands papers offer supplementary information concerning land settlement (RG 20, Series "C", 186 vols.).

Subsequent land transactions after the initial grant are recorded as deeds. See Registry of Deeds information below.

VITAL STATISTICS:

Births (1864-1876):

This collection is on microfilm, and is indexed and arranged by county. The index is alphabetical by surname. Please copy the county name, year, page, and number of the index entry.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reels 320-325 (index); RG 32, Series "WB", Reels 339-341 (registrations). (Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Deaths (1864-1877):

This collection is used in the same way as Births.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reels 326-328 (index); RG 32, Series "WB", Reels 348-350 (registrations). (Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Marriages (1864-ca. 1916):

This collection is used in the same way as Births. The index is, however, arranged first by county, then alphabetically by the individual's name; both brides and grooms are listed.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Reels 331-332 (index); RG 32, Series "WB", Reels 358-362 (registrations). (Available near the Third Floor Desk.)

Marriage Bonds (1763-1864):

This collection of bonds (a form of early licence sometimes used instead of calling the banns) is arranged by date and there

is no surname index. A two-volume typed transcript is available near the Third Floor Desk.

REFERENCES: Micro: RG 32, Marriage Bonds, 13 reels.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS:

Once land was granted by the Crown, any subsequent transaction was recorded as a deed. The original deeds are at the Halifax County Registry of Deeds, Fifth Floor, Centennial Building, 1660 Hollis Street, Halifax B3J 1V7. Microfilm copies of Halifax County deeds at PANS are: Indices, 1749-1967; Deeds 1749-1903; Land Grants and Index, 1854-1967; all of which are located on the Second Floor. Please consult Finding Aid for individual reels.

PROBATE RECORDS:

Probate records include the will books, estate papers and supporting documents which enable the executors or appointed administrators to settle the estate. Original wills and estate papers are at the Probate Court, Law Courts Building, 1815 Upper Water Street, Halifax B3J 1S7. Microfilm copies of Halifax County probate records at the PANS are: Will Books, 1749-1968 (indices for 1749-1886 and 1931-1939); Estate Papers, 1750-1871; Indices to Estate Papers, 1750-1968; Letters of Administration, 1902-1968; Probate Acts, 1762-1968; Letters Testamentary, 1901-1968; all of which are located on the Second Floor. Please consult Finding Aid for individual reels.

MAP SOURCES (FIFTH FLOOR):

The Ambrose F. Church Co. topographical maps of Nova Scotia counties were produced between 1865 and 1888, the first being Halifax County, 1865. These maps feature detailed plans of the various census districts and townships, including locations of buildings, names of occupants, transportation routes and various geographical markings.

Hopkins' City Atlas of Halifax, N.S., 1878 provides details of streets and the wards of the city. (See also: Library copy; O/S G119/H79.)

FIFTH FLOOR:

The Fifth Floor collections may be useful in providing information about how people of various time periods lived, what kind of clothing they wore, what their homes looked like, what stories they told their children, the music they played or listened to, what their daily routine was comprised of, etc. Pictures, photographs, maps, architectural plans, and film and sound recordings can portray these aspects of life and should not be overlooked. We suggest that you telephone the Fifth Floor prior to your visit, because the complex nature of their collections may require the archivists' assistance. Normal working hours there are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with limited service to pictures, photographs, maps and plans on Wednesday evenings.

NOTES

GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF NOVA SCOTIA

P.O. BOX 641, STATION M, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, B3J 2T3 CANADA

PUBLICATIONS:

P-1 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1813-1822.

P-2 A Catalogue of Published Genealogies of Nova Scotia Families.

P-3 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1823-1828.

P-5 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1769-1812 (also includes a Supplement to Years 1813-1822).

P-6 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1829-1834.

P-7 Baptisms, Marriages & Burials 1749-1768 for St. Paul's Church, Halifax (oldest English-speaking congregation in Canada).

P-8 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1835-1839.

P-9 In Which County? Nova Scotia Surnames from Birth Registers 1864-1877.

P-10 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1840-1843.

P-11 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1844-1847.

P-12 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1848-1851.

P-13 N.S. Vital Statistics from Newspapers, 1852-1854.

ALL OF THE ABOVE PUBLICATIONS ARE $13.00 EACH

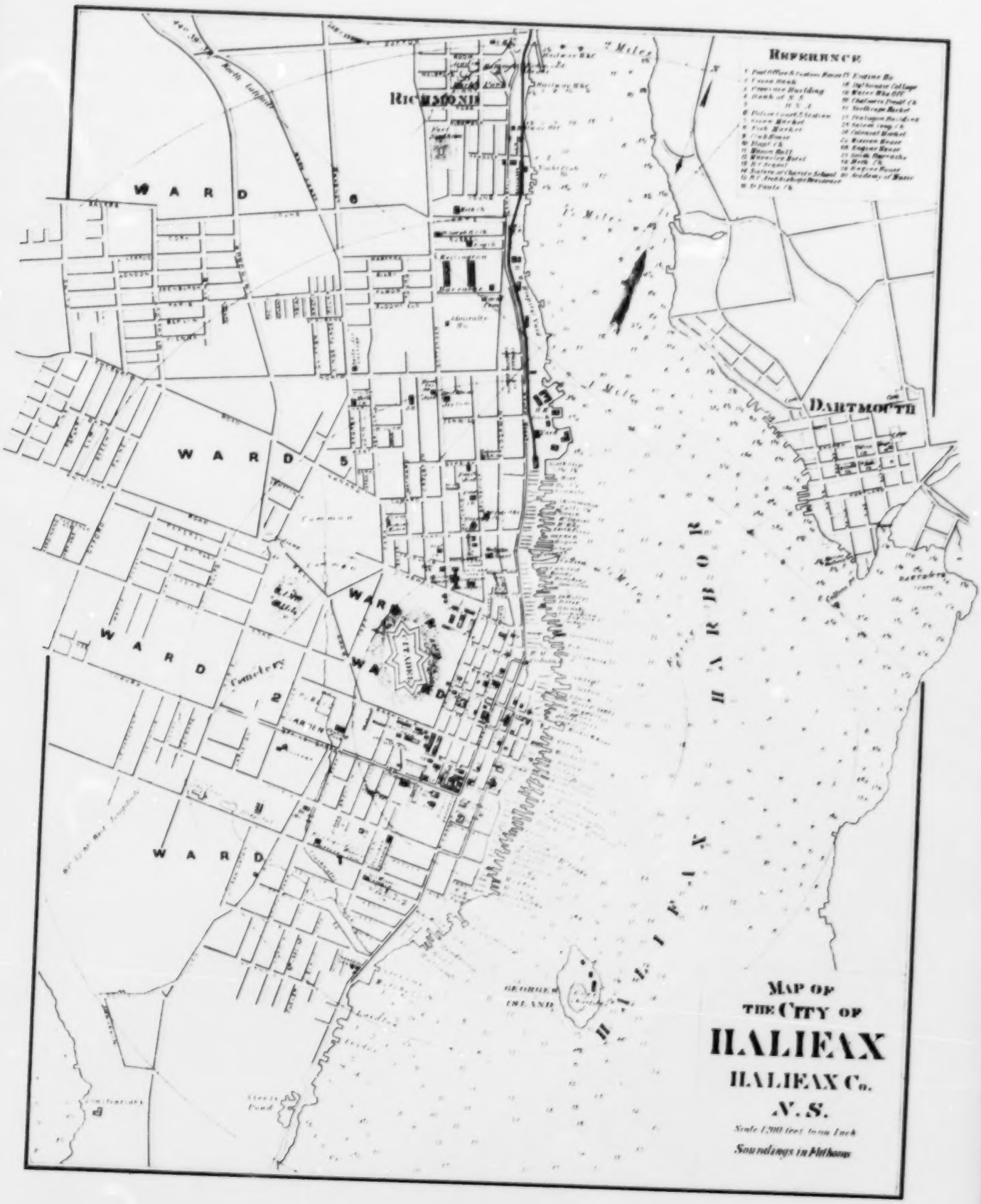
REFERENCE BOOKS:

R-1 Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia, by Terrence M. Punch (136 pages). $10.00

R-2 Tracing Your Ancestors in Nova Scotia, by Julie Morris (11 pages). $ 3.00

R-6 A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada Before Confederation, by Donald Whyte (12,501 entries, 443 pages). $23.00

PLEASE ADD $1.00 PER ITEM FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING


REFERENCE
RICHMOND
DARTMOUTH
WARD 6
WARD 5
WARD 4
WARD 3
WARD 2
WARD 1
HALIFAX HARBOUR
MAP OF
THE CITY OF
HALIFAX
HALIFAX Co.
N. S.
Scale 1,200 feet to an Inch
Soundings in Fathoms